

Application No. 10/065,959
Docket No. 17MY-7106
Amendment dated May 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-16 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 1-8 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103, claims 10-13 were allowed, and claims 9, 14 and 15 were deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

In his statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the Examiner noted that the “prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that the slurry consist essentially of aluminum particles in an inorganic binder solution.” In response, Applicants have amended rejected independent claim 1 (from which rejected claims 2-8 and 16 depend) to rephrase the composition of the slurry from “containing aluminum particles in an inorganic binder solution” to “consisting essentially of aluminum particles in an inorganic binder solution.” Applicants believe that this amendment is strictly limited to narrowing the scope of independent claim 1 by incorporating the particular limitation cited by the Examiner as being the allowable subject matter, and therefore does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and 16 under 35 USC §103.

In addition to the amendment of claim 1, dependent claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 1 (before the present amendment), pursuant to the Examiner’s conclusion that claim 9 recites


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allowable subject matter. As such, claim 9 is believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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